

IN THE CLAIMS:

All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A system in a supply chain network, the system comprising:

one or more site data appliances comprising one or more types of data source equipment, the one or more site data appliances using a protocol to collect specification information from the one or more types of data source equipment, the specification information comprising event information that describes events generated by the one or more types of data source equipment; one or more site servers coupled to one or more site data appliances that receive the specification information from the one or more site data appliances and generate a document describing the event information of the one or more types of data source equipment; and a data center coupled to the one or more site servers that receives the document from the one or more site servers and automatically generates a mapping table based on the received document that maps each event of the one or more types of ~~site~~ data source equipment as described in the event information to a corresponding event handler that executes in response to an event generated by the one or more types of data source equipment.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the data center sends the mapping table to the one or more site servers.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the document is formed using extensible markup language (XML).

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, further comprising a portable device coupled with the one or more site servers to access an instance of the document.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the specification information further comprises method and property information associated with the data source equipment.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein a dotted notation is used to identify the event, method and property information.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein communications between the one or more types of data source equipment, the one or more site data appliances and the one or more site servers utilize a Universal Data Appliance Protocol (UDAP).

31. (Previously Presented) A method executable by a computer system in a supply chain network, the method comprising:

receiving, from a site server associated with one or more site data appliances, a document comprising event information that describes events generated by one or more types of data source equipment associated with the one or more site data appliances; and

automatically generating a mapping table based on the received document that maps each event of the one or more types of data source equipment as described in the event information to a corresponding event handler that executes in response to an event generated by the one or more types of data source equipment.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising sending the mapping table to the site server.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the document comprising the specification information of the one or more data source equipment is formed using extensible markup language (XML).

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising accessing an instance of the document with a portable device.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the specification information further comprises method and property information associated with the one or more types of data source equipment.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising identifying, through dotted notation, the event, method and property information.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein collecting specification information and gathering the specification information further comprises communication through a Universal Data Appliance Protocol (UDAP).

38. (Currently Amended) A method of a site server associated with one or more site data appliances in a supply chain network, the method comprising:

receiving from the one or more site data appliances specification information comprising event information that describes events generated by each one or more types of data source equipment associated with the one or more site data appliances;

generating a document describing the event information of the one or more types of data source equipment using extensible markup language (XML;

sending the generated document to a data center; and

responsive to sending the generated document, receiving from the data center a mapping table based on the generated document that maps each event of the one or more types of site data source equipment, as described by the event information, to a corresponding event handler that executes in response to an event generated by the one or more types of data source equipment; and

executing an event handler from the mapping table responsive to receiving an event generated by the one or more types of data source equipment.

39. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, comprising:
a computer-readable medium having computer program logic embodied therein that when executed by a processor:

receives, from a site server associated with one or more site data appliances, a document comprising event information that describes events generated by one or more types of data source equipment associated with the one or more site data appliances; and automatically generates a mapping table based on the received document that maps each event of the one or more types of data source equipment as described in the event information to a corresponding event handler that executes in response to an event generated by the one or more types of data source equipment.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, further comprising sending the mapping table to the site server.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the document comprising the event information is formed using extensible markup language (XML).

42. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 41, further comprising accessing an instance of the document with a portable device.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the document further comprises method and property information associated with the data source equipment.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 43, further comprising identifying, through dotted notation, the event, method and property information.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein receiving, from one or more site data appliances, the document further comprises communicating through the Universal Data Appliance Protocol (UDAP).

46. (Previously Presented) A system in a supply chain network for configuring asset tracking, the system comprising:

a plurality of types of automated data source equipment, each data source equipment having associated specification information comprising event information that describes events generated by the data source equipment;

one or more site data appliances, coupled to the automated data source equipment, the one or more site data appliances receive the specification information, from the plurality of types of automated data source equipment;

one or more site servers, coupled to one or more site data appliances, to receive the specification information from the one or more site data appliances and generate a document describing the event information of the plurality of types of automated data source equipment; and

a data center, coupled to the one or more site servers, that receives the document from the one or more site servers and automatically generates a mapping table based on the received document that maps each event of the plurality of types of automated data source equipment as described in the event information to a corresponding event handler that executes in response to an event generated by one of the plurality of types of automated data source equipment.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the document is formed using extensible markup language (XML).

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the specification information further comprises method and property information associated with the data source equipment.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein sending the generated document to a data center further comprises communication through a Universal Data Appliance Protocol (UDAP).